

**Administrator's Mission to Greater China**  
**9 December, 2013**  
**Beijing, China**

**Embassy Breakfast Briefing**

---

**Purpose:** To meet with senior leadership of Embassy Beijing and receive a briefing from senior leadership on issues on the ground pertinent to your mission. The team will brief you on the outcomes on Vice President Joe Biden's just completed trip and messaging for your trip.

**Key Message:** The severe air quality challenges that China now faces are ones where the U.S. can speak from experience in support of China's efforts to reduce air pollution. We were there not too long ago before the EPA and our landmark environmental laws in the U.S. While here, I plan to highlight steps forward that China has already taken, talk about other steps to come, and how we can continue to work together.

**Key Ask:** Continued overall support of our mission.

**Participants:**

**U.S. Embassy Beijing**

- Mr. Thomas Hodges, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Public Affairs Minister
- Ms. Erica Thomas, Environment, Science, Technology and Health
- Mr. William Zarit, Commercial Affairs
- Mr. Robert Ivy, Department of Energy
- Ms. Kaye Lee, Political Affairs (TBC)
- Mr. Hanscom Smith, Economic Affairs (TBC)

**U.S. EPA**

- EPA Delegation

**Administrator's Remarks** [Exemption 5]

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**THOMAS M. HODGES**  
**Minister Counselor for Public Affairs**

Thomas Hodges is the Minister Counselor of the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. He assumed his duties in August 2012.

Hodges's career as a professional U.S. diplomat began in 1987. He has served in a number of overseas posts in public diplomacy positions, including in Tallinn, Estonia; Dakar, Senegal; Mumbai, India; and The Hague, the Netherlands. Before his service in Beijing, he was the Director of the Office of Public Diplomacy in the State Department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs in Washington. He has previous service in the People's Republic of China, at the U.S. Consulate in Shenyang. Hodges also worked at the American Institute in Taiwan as Public Affairs Officer.



Hodges holds a Bachelor of Arts in European Studies from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and a Master's of Science in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense University in Washington, DC (an institution run by the U.S. Department of Defense for senior-level military and civilian officers). In addition to Chinese, he speaks French, Dutch, German, and Estonian.

Hodges was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and grew up in Nashville, Tennessee. He is married and has two children.

**ERICA K. THOMAS**

**Counselor for Environment, Science, Technology and Health**

Erica assumed her position as the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing in August 2010. Prior to this posting, Erica served as the Senior Coordinator for the first meeting of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue in Washington, DC. Her tour before that was also in Beijing where from 2006-2008, she served as the Unit Chief of the Trade, Transportation and Services Section within the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy. From 2001-2005, Erica was the Environment, Science, Technology and Health Officer at the American Institute in Taiwan in Taipei. Erica developed her background in international public policy from 1992-1997 and 1999-2000 while serving in the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs working primarily on marine conservation issues. For a portion of that time, in 1997, Erica was a Special Assistant to the State Department's Undersecretary for Global Affairs. Erica began her career at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1990 and between 1990 and 1992 worked both at the EPA and at the White House Counsel on Environmental Quality on U.S. preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Erica has a Master's in Public Policy from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. Erica is accompanied in Beijing by her husband and three daughters (ages 15, 13 and 4).



**KAYE A. LEE**

**Minister Counselor for Political Affairs**

Kaye Lee is a career Department of State Foreign Service Officer, currently serving as the Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China. Prior to this posting, Kaye was the Director for Resource Management at the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). She has also lived and worked in Kyiv, Hong Kong, Seoul, Guangzhou, and Moscow.

In Washington D.C., Kaye worked as a Special Assistant to then-Deputy Secretary John D. Negroponte (2007 – 2009), covering issues related to Asia, arms control and non-proliferation, and global economic policies. Earlier Washington service included tours as the country desk officer for Estonia and Finland and as Trade Policy Officer in the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs.

A native of Seattle, Kaye is a graduate of the University of Washington. She studied Chinese at Tunghai University in Taichung (Taiwan) and received intensive economics training at the Department of State's Foreign Service Institute in Virginia.

Ms. Lee is married and has two daughters.



**M. HANSCOM SMITH**  
**Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs**

A career Foreign Service Officer, Hanscom Smith has held assignments at the U.S. embassies in Yaounde, Copenhagen, Phnom Penh, Bangkok, and Kabul. In addition, he has been assigned to the Office of Japan Affairs at the U.S. Department of State, and has worked at the American Institute in Taiwan. Mr. Smith also served as team leader at the U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Team in Muthanna Province, Iraq. In July 2012, he began his assignment as Economic Minister Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. Mr. Smith holds a bachelor's degree from Georgetown University and master's

degrees from the London School of Economics and Princeton University. His foreign languages are French, Danish, Khmer, and Mandarin Chinese.



**WILLIAM ZARIT**  
**Minister for Commercial Affairs**

**William Zarit** is Minister for Commercial Affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, overseeing the U.S. Department of Commerce's trade promotion and trade policy activities in its operations in Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenyang. Mr. Zarit is one of only three serving Foreign Commercial Service officers worldwide to have attained the rank of Career Minister

Prior to his posting to Beijing, Mr. Zarit was Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Operations, for the U.S. Commercial Service, overseeing Commercial Sections in U.S. Embassies and Consulates worldwide. The U.S. Commercial Service is the federal government's front line trade agency, promoting both U.S. exports and foreign investment into the U.S., and protecting U.S. commercial interests overseas. Prior to that Mr. Zarit served as the U.S. Commercial Service's Regional Director for East Asia/Pacific.

Mr. Zarit previously served as Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, and Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the American Institute in Taiwan.

Before joining the U.S. Commercial Service Mr. Zarit was Economic and Commercial Program Officer for the New York-based National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. Prior to that he served as Marketing Manager/China for the California-based telecommunications firm Pacific Telesis International, preceded by his work as Project Manager for the high-tech marketing firm China Business Associates, both positions based in Beijing. Mr. Zarit also served as Mandarin Chinese Interpreter for State Department Language Services.

He earned an M.B.A. with Honors from the University of California, Berkeley, and a B.A. with Honors in Political Science from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

**ROBERT (BOB) G. IVY**  
**Department of Energy**

Bob Ivy was assigned the Directorship of the DOE China Office at the U.S. Embassy to the People's Republic of China in May 2013. The DOE China Office serves all DOE Program Offices and interfaces with China Government and industry officials as well as other U.S. Agencies at the Embassy.

He most recently served as the Red Team Program Manager for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In that capacity Mr. Ivy planned, coordinated, and directed red team assessments of fielded radiological and nuclear detection capabilities at the Federal, State, and local levels by conducting both covert and overt performance testing. In addition, he provided lessons learned, analysis, and recommendations to enhance goals and plans tied to his respective programs, this resulted in increased resourcing for the program including funding increases that took the program from \$500,000 annually to \$5,000,000 annually within four years. To enable the program, Mr. Ivy managed several programs that scientifically developed and fielded radiological test devices. These programs collaborated with multiple National Laboratories and the National Nuclear Security Administration in the concept development, research, and design selection. Once designs were selected, Mr. Ivy acted as the US Government program lead in the engineering, production, and fielding of the devices, including the supporting aspects such as the development of modernized fissile material shipping containers.

Mr. Ivy served 23 years in the U.S. Army. Prior to his assignment at DHS, Mr. Ivy served as the Chief, Counterproliferation Branch in the Headquarters of the Department of the Army from 2006 to 2009. From 2002 to 2006, served as a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Operations and Plans Officer, including a combat tour in Iraq where he served as the WMD Elimination Plans Officer for 3<sup>rd</sup> Army and the 75<sup>th</sup> Exploitation Task Force in 2003.

From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Ivy served a Database Manger and Program Analyst in the Headquarters of the Department of the Army Program Analysis and Evaluation Directorate. From 2000 to 2001, he served as the Deputy Officer in Charge of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency's Operations Center.

Mr. Ivy graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1989 and completed his MA in International Policy Studies at the Monterey Institute of International Studies in 1999. He is married and has a daughter.